



28 June 2017

*While elk populations continue to increase substantially. While wolf-livestock depredation continues to decline. While elk hunting success rates continue to increase. While elk recruitment in the Bitterroot is 33/100. Montana wolf populations continue to be driven lower and lower. Currently, the minimum wolf count is 477 wolves.*

*Chronic Wasting Disease (CWD) is at the interface of where Montana and Wyoming meet. Montana is on the threshold of an ungulate crisis. Other Midwestern states have spent millions of dollars to cull infected deer. But this department continues to advocate for a very liberal wolf hunting and trapping season.*

*Wolves are nature's way of helping to keep CWD and other concerns in balance. Wolves have the ability to detect illness or weakness in elk and other wildlife. Why isn't Montana Fish Wildlife & Parks including wolves in the overall strategy to defeat or at least slow the rate of CWD expansion?*

#### *24-hour trap checks*

*This department continues to pander to the consumptive community such as Montana Trappers Association, Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation, and others. All the while knowing that wildlife belongs to all Montanan's under the public trust doctrine including wildlife enthusiast. Or as the department calls us "Other Stakeholders".*

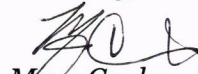
#### *15 and Forward*

*Its intent was to help guide the department forward over the next decade or so. I others that I trust and respect attended these meetings held throughout the state. Nowhere at this meetings did we see support for the trapping of wolves. However reading the final version of 15 and forward and you would believe otherwise. The process is skewed. I strongly suggest and encourage the department to hold a statewide Montana Wildlife Summit similar to what Idaho did several years ago.*

*Poaching of wolves and other wildlife is alive and well in Montana. Recently, another Yellowstone wolf was poached. While we are not sure if it happened in the park or in Montana we will probably never know. One reason could be is because the department does not have a warden in this area.*

*Last but not least. The department has failed to provide the 2017 wolf weekly. It is currently 7 months behind. This is a clear indication to myself and others how they feel about wolves in Montana. So much for finding common ground with other non consumptive conservation organizations.*

*Sincerely,*

  
Marc Cooke  
Executive Director  
Wolves Of the Rockies

ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY  
COUNCIL 2017-18

June 29, 2017

Exhibit 10